

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. An image processing method, performed by an image supply device
2 storing image data and an image output device performing image processing
3 with respect to the image data which are connected via a communication path
4 through which the image data is communicated, the method comprising steps
5 of:

6 confirming whether an extended function for a predetermined function
7 is valid in both of the image supply device and the image output device;

8 generating a control information item including a script for image
9 processing which is described by a markup language, in a case where it is
10 confirmed the extended function is valid; and

11 communicating, between the image supply device and the image
12 output device, the control information item,

13 wherein an extension tag corresponding to the extended function is
14 inserted into the script while remaining an existing tag corresponding to the
15 predetermined function.

1 2. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 extension tag is inserted at a lower nest level than the existing tag.

1 3. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 extension tag is associated with image data to be subjected to image
3 processing in connection with the extended function.

1 4. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 markup language enables additional definition of a document form.

1 5. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 script includes a control command for the image processing, a response for the
3 control command, and a notification of a status of the image output device,
4 which are described by the markup language.

1 6. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 control information item does not contain the image data therein.

1 7. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a
2 position of the extension tag in the script is prior to the existing tag.

1 8. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 extended tag specifies image processing unique to a vendor of the image
3 supply device.

1 9. The image processing method as set forth in claim 8, wherein:
2 control data pertaining to the image processing specified by the
3 extension tag is appended in a file storing the image data; and
4 the image output device performs the image processing with respect
5 to the image data based on the control data.

1 10. The image processing method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the
2 image output device performs the information processing specified by the
3 extension tag among the information processing corresponding to the
4 predetermined function, in a case where it is confirmed the extended function
5 is valid.

1 11. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the
2 extension tag specifies image processing in which another image is combined
3 with an original image of the image data.

1 12. The image processing method as set forth in claim 11, wherein the
2 extension tag specifies image data for a frame image.

1 13. The image processing method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the
2 image output device outputs an image in which the frame image is combined
3 with the original image.

1 14. The image processing method as set forth in claim 12, wherein the
2 extension tag specifies image data for a background image.

1 15. The image processing method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the
2 image output device outputs an image in which the frame image and the
3 background image are combined with the original image.

1 16. The image processing method as set forth in claim 1, further
2 comprising steps of:

3 specifying, at the image output device, a type and a size of a
4 recording medium specified by the control information item;

5 generating, at the image output device, an invalid notification using
6 the extension tag, in a case where the recording medium specified by the
7 control information item is invalid in the image output device; and

8 transmitting, to the image supply device, the invalid notification as a
9 part of the control information item.

1 17. An image processing system, comprising:

2 an image supply device, operable to store image data; and

3 an image output device, connected to the image supply device via a
4 communication path through which the image data is communicated, and
5 operable to perform image processing with respect to the image data,

6 wherein each of the image supply device and the image output device
7 comprises:

8 a communication controller, operable to communicate, between the
9 image supply device and the image output device, a control information item
10 for the image processing including a script described by a markup language;
11 and

12 a script generator, operable to confirm whether an extended
13 function for a predetermined function is valid in both of the image supply
14 device and the image output device, and operable to generate the script in
15 which an extension tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted

16 while remaining an existing tag corresponding to the predetermined function, in
17 a case where it is confirmed the extended function is valid.

1 18. An image output device, connected to an image supply device storing
2 image data via a communication path through which the image data is
3 communicated, the image output device comprising:
4 a communication controller, operable to communicate a control
5 information item for image processing to be performed with respect to the
6 image data, the control information item including a script described by a
7 markup language; and
8 a script generator, operable to confirm whether an extended function
9 for a predetermined function is valid in both of the image supply device and the
10 image output device, and operable to generate the script in which an extension
11 tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted while remaining an
12 existing tag corresponding to the predetermined function, in a case where it is
13 confirmed the extended function is valid.

1 19. An image supply device, connected to an image output device
2 performing image processing, via a communication path, the image supply
3 device comprising:
4 a storage, which stores image data to be subjected to the image
5 processing;
6 a communication controller, operable to communicate a control
7 information item for the image processing including a script described by a
8 markup language; and

9 a script generator, operable to confirm whether an extended function
10 for a predetermined function is valid in both of the image supply device and the
11 image output device, and operable to generate the script in which an extension
12 tag corresponding to the extended function is inserted while remaining an
13 existing tag corresponding to the predetermined function, in a case where it is
14 confirmed the extended function is valid.

1 20. A computer program product comprising a computer program which
2 causes a computer to serve as the communication controller and the script
3 generator in the image output device as set forth in claim 18.

1 21. A computer program product comprising a computer program which
2 causes a computer to serve as the communication controller and the script
3 generator in the image supply device as set forth in claim 19.

1 22. An image processing method, performed by an image output device
2 connected to an image supply device storing image data, via a communication
3 path through which the image data is communicated, the method comprising
4 steps of:
5 receiving, from the image supply device, a control information item
6 including a script for image processing, the script being described by a markup
7 language includable an extension tag corresponding to an extended function
8 pertaining to the image processing; and
9 performing the image processing with respect to the image data,
10 based on the control information item.

1 23. An image processing method, performed by an image supply device
2 storing image data which is connected to an image output device performing
3 image processing with respect to the image data, via a communication path
4 through which the image data is communicated, the method comprising steps
5 of:

6 generating a control information item including a script for the image
7 processing which is described by a markup language; and

8 inserting an extension tag corresponding to an extended function
9 pertaining to the image processing.

1 24. A control information item, communicated between an image supply
2 device storing image data and an image output device performing image
3 processing with respect to the image data which are connected via a
4 communication path through which the image data is communicated, the item
5 comprising a script for the image processing which is described by a markup
6 language includable an extension tag corresponding to an extended function of
7 the image processing.

1 25. An image processing method, performed by an image output device
2 connected to an image supply device storing image data, via a communication
3 path through which the image data is communicated, the method comprising
4 steps of:

5 receiving, from the image supply device, a control information item
6 including a script for image processing which is described by a markup

7 language includable an extension tag corresponding to an extended function of
8 the image processing;
9 reading out a correction information item preset in the image output
10 device to correct the image data in a predetermined manner; and
11 performing the image processing with respect to the image data,
12 based on at least one of the control information item and the correction
13 information item.

1 26. An image processing method, performed by an image supply device
2 storing image data, which is connected to an image output device performing
3 image processing with respect to the image data, via a communication path
4 through which the image data is communicated, the method comprising steps
5 of:
6 generating a control information item including a script for the image
7 processing which is described by a markup language;
8 selecting image data to which an extended function pertaining to the
9 image processing is to be applied; and
10 inserting automatically an extension tag corresponding to the
11 extended function into the script associated with the selected image data.